

is curved; the bottom dashed line is straight. Reference numeral 30 has been added.

This shape of the dashed lines corresponds to the slot 30 shown in solid lines in original Fig. 3.

As set forth in the specification (see paragraph 0033), the second intake windows 20a, 20b; 20c, 20d can be arranged at the turbine end faces 26 but preferably they are connected to one another (extended toward one another) to form a common intake slot 30. Slot 30 is shown in original Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 6.

Fig. 4 now includes in dashed lines the contour of the intake slot 30 to illustrate how the windows 20a, 20b shown in solid lines are connected to form a common slot. This is an illustration of the subject matter of claim 3, where a second window is arranged at each gap 29, respectively. The connection to a common slot (claim 3) is illustrated by the dashed line 30 in Fig. 4.

The same is essentially also shown in Fig. 3 where the windows 20a, 20b are shown at the gap 29, respectively, but the windows 20a, 20b are no longer individual elements but are connected to a common slot 30, i.e., the windows are the end portions of the slot 30.

In regard to claim 4, it is respectfully submitted that the length of the slot 30 in the axial direction is shown to be longer than the surface line of the turbine surface 12 (extension of the turbine surface in the axial direction); this is illustrated in Fig. 3. Note that the ends of the slot 30 (the windows 20a, 20b) project past the end faces 26 of the turbine 6.

In regard to claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that the semi-elliptical shape of the slot 30 is shown in original Fig. 3; the major axis of the ellipse is the straight bottom of the slot (i.e., the ellipse is cut in half along the major axis); the minor axis of the ellipse extends in the direction of the height s shown in Fig. 3 (i.e., the height s is 1/2 of the minor axis). The contour of the slot 30 corresponds to the circumferential line of a semi-ellipse. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 7 is illustrated properly in Fig. 3.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of the drawings pursuant to 37 CFR 1.183(a) are therefore respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1-12 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or **e-mail** from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on March 19, 2007,

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Encl.: replacement drawing sheet/s Figs. 3, 4 (1 sheet)